

7th February 1970. League Match v. Kingstonians (home)

Wycombe Wanderers 3, Kingstonian 0

JOHNNY HUTCHINSON answered all his critics on Saturday when he scored two goals and had a hand in the third as Wycombe came back in the second half to add two more points to their total in their bid for the Isthmian League title this season.

"Hutch" has been off form in recent games and regular supporters have been wanting to see him at his best. On Saturday he certainly provided them with his answer: two fine left footed goals and plenty of hard, fast running on a surface that after 10 minutes was more like a ploughed field than a football pitch.

Kingstonian made no less than eight changes from the originally selected side, due to injuries after their midweek game with Hampton. Even so, during the first half they kept the eager Wycombe forwards at bay.

Indeed, the first half produced little to excite the ample crowd. However Peter Suddaby brought a few gasps when his pass back to Johnny Maskell fell too short and Maskell was forced to spread himself at the feet of Maurice to relieve the danger.

Kingstonian soon mounted fast and precise attacks, punctuated with short passing but too often this led to interceptions from Wanderers alert midfield men.

No. 4 Heath, a fast and bustling player seemed the only real danger to Wycombe, and after a great start he was eventually swamped by a combination of Wycombe players and mud.

Wanderers' main failure throughout the first half was that they tried to do too much. The pitch just did not allow the constructive attacks that Wycombe are so used to playing. This was proved in the second half when two of their goals came from "dead" ball set ups.

However on several occasions they came extremely close. Not the least of which was when a move started with Delaney backheeling the ball to Rundle on his own goal-line. Rundle sent a long ball to Hutchinson, who beat one man before centring for his ex-Wealdstone colleague Keith Searle to hammer a first time shot into the side netting.

The visitors' main weakness in the first half was in defence. Too often they were outjumped by Searle and Horseman.

Wycombe held the ball too long and often their shots were blocked by the overworked visitors' defence. However, a change of tactics, when Wanderers pumped the ball upfield for Tony Horseman to chase nearly succeeded, but after only a few moves they resorted to their "old" tactics.

Keith Blunt, playing his first full 90 minutes for some time, added some useful punch in midfield but he also was too slow in front of goal.

Kingstonian presented the firm Wycombe backline with very little trouble, a fact borne out when they won their one and only corner a minute before half-time.

After half-time Wycombe came out obviously determined to master the conditions and force even more pressure on the Kingstonian defence. However it took until the 61st minute until they worked their way into a possible scoring chance when Keith Searle flashed a John Delaney free kick over the crossbar.

It was only fitting that Johnny Hutchinson should break the 63 minute deadlock after some excellent work in the first half. His goal came from a Horseman corner which failed to find Delaney. The ball was nudged out to Hutchinson who controlled it well before letting fly with his left foot, the ball set on its course for the top left hand corner of the net.

Throughout the second half Kingstonian failed to break through the midfield barrier and on the few times they did, they met the bulky figures of Gale and Rundle, who tidied up well at the back.

John Maskell came into action for the first time in the second half after 24 minutes, but he had only to stoop to pick up a half-hit shot from Maurice.

Constant Wanderers pressure resulted in their second goal in the 73rd minute. From a throw in Charlie Gale sent the ball goalwards, Tony Horseman stuck out a foot in his usual fashion and the ball spun out to Hutchinson. Johnny took careful aim before ramming his second goal again with his left foot and again into the top corner.

Still Kingstonian failed to find a way through the Wycombe wall and for the rest of the game had to concentrate entirely on defensive tactics.

With Wanderers gaining corners virtually every other minute (17 in all) it was no surprise when they scored again, and what a goal it was.

Johnny Hutchinson took the corner which dropped right on the foot of Peter Suddaby, who vollied the ball past the stranded Bentley. Indeed had the keeper got in the way of it he would have presumably ended up on top of Wycombe General Hospital! Peter met the ball full toss and it really raced into goal.

Keith Searle, who seemed dogged by bad luck in this game, hit the upright in the closing minutes and full back Adaway booted a Tony Horseman shot off the line before the final whistle.

Wanderers now go four points clear at the top of the Isthmian League table for St. Albans and Enfield were both involved in Cup competitions.

Wycombe Wanderers: Maskell; Rundle, Gale, Suddaby, Delaney, Lailey; Blunt, Baker, Horseman, Searle, Hutchinson. Sub.: Faulkner (not used).

Kingstonians: Bentley; Dennis, Adaway, Heath, Gayton, Preston, Keary, Maurice, Strewan, Robinson, Doyle. Sub.: Clements (not used).

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THREE GOALS in the last 20 minutes gave Isthmian League leaders Wycombe Wanderers victory over a weakened Kingstonian side.

Kingston defended stubbornly against a vastly superior Wycombe attack until they finally cracked. Then Hutchinson scored from a Horseman corner and followed it up 10 minutes later with a second. Hutchinson's keeper, Bentley stopped a Hutchinson hat-trick with one of several brilliant saves but he was unable to prevent Suddaby from adding a third.